



Attorney Docket No.: 00633-025001

AF 3738  
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Cmnd B Cr.  
S. Deyce  
2/3/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Saumil N. Merchant et al.  
Serial No. : 09/625,644  
Filed : July 26, 2000  
Title : MIDDLE-EAR IMPLANT

Art Unit : 3738  
Examiner : D. Isabella

Box AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the final office action mailed on November 18, 2002, Applicant requests entry of the following amendments and reconsideration on the basis of the following remarks:

In the claims:

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

-- **2. (Twice Amended)** The implant of claim 1, wherein said pliant membrane forms a balloon having a physical volume, said balloon having an acoustic impedance corresponding to an equivalent volume of at least 70% of said physical volume. --

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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Carla F. O'Fodile

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